



Arlington Commission for Arts & Culture

Date: June 2, 2022

Time: 7:00-8:30pm

Location: Zoom

Minutes

Attending: Lidia Kenig-Scher, Stephanie Marlin-Curiel, Christine Noah, Steve Poltorzyski, Beth Locke, Sarah Morgan-Wu. Cristin Canterbury Bagnall, Tom Davison

Absent: Stewart Ikeda, Tom Formicola,

Guests: Cecily Miller., Ali Carter

Meeting called to order at 7:04pm

1) ROLL CALL AND RULES OF REMOTE MEETINGS CONDUCTED DURING COVID-19

2) APPROVAL OF MAY MINUTES

- Minutes unanimously approved. with small edits to attendance.

3) GRANTS AND CULTURAL DISTRICT UPDATE

- Andrea Nicolay is leaving and Sarah Morgan-Wu will be taking over as liaison to the Cultural District

4) UPDATE FROM CO-CHAIRS

- We are submitting an ARPA grant to create or more murals in town and planning for future mural projects to include survey of suitable locations, reaching out property owners, identifying artist. It is for planning and assessment and a demo project. Steve and Cecily will prepare the grants. We want to do this in collaboration with ACA and the Chamber of Commerce. CAC will help outreach to local businesses. ACA will help us work with youth the way youth were engaged with Sophy Tuttle on the Anderson Florist buildings. Kids from the MAPC Climate project.
- Property owners feel it can be risky. Also how do we engage the communities, the neighbors.
- Maybe we would make it competitive. Offer a great opportunity for a mural - who is interested.
- For murals, we could consider a creative placemaking mural project at the Arlington Eats building.
- We should consider CPA funded projects and try to integrate public art into those projects from the beginning. We should go before the redevelopment board and maintain a relationship with those entities, CPA and redevelopment board, so we can be in conversation with them as projects are proposed. Clarissa Rowe is current acting chair.
- We received a frantic call from business owners whose businesses were painted without their knowledge at the 800 Block mural (Michelle Casey property owner) (exact name/address TBD). Lydia said that for future murals, property owners should inform or even involve their tenants.
- We will consider how murals are decommissioned as well.
- Ali confirmed that ACAC is qualified to be a lead applicant on the ARPA grant.

5) ARLINGTON CULTURAL DISTRICT UPDATES

- We need to reapply to keep our Cultural District designation. Sarah will check-in with Andrea and find out what may need to be done.
- Andrea had suggestions for updates to Managing Partner agreement, and will make those updates.

6) PORCHFEST/ GARAGE BAND/WHITTEMORE EVENTS

- We will be on at 6pm at Arlington Service Station after Porchfest. We are on the landing page for the Porchfest as the "After Party."
- Band is the Squeezebox Stompers
- Promotion in Arts Boston, social media, Patch, etc.
- Tom is going before the Select Board on the 16th to see if they can close Wyman Terrace for Garage Band. DPW will also provide extra recycling bins.
- Beth is hosting a stage at Whittemore Park for Porchfest. We will have the Persistence pieces on exhibition and for sale. Arts Arlington can have a table or otherwise have more of a presence at that part of the event. If we plan to have a table at Whittemore Park or a tent, we should just check with Tom and Anneliese (ACA) to make sure they would feel about it. Maybe we would have one tent for the Cultural District (promote the tour), Ed Gordon, ACAC, etc.) Maybe one of the Lougee pieces should be offered as a giveaway and do a drawing to try to gather names.

7) CHAMBER EVENT

- ACAC is lead act.
- Event will be held June 8th at the Regent, 5-7pm.
- Dan Fox and one of the adult jazz combos will be playing across the street.
- Christine is drafting a slide presentation. It was suggested that it would be great to try to make it interactive. Beth has advised us to make the presentation short enough that we can follow up with one on one and small group presentation. People want to meet each other and talk.
- Cecily suggested putting in a plug for the most recent mural on the 800's Mass Ave block.

8) TOWN DAY

- We will put in an application and request a particular location.
- Sarah and artist Maryanne Honda, a second artist, and Kathleen Darcy who represents Cambridge Savings Bank and who runs the Town Day committee. Kathleen suggested a Plein Air event would be perfectly suited to Town Day and would be held in Town Hall Gardens. We would offer prizes to Best in Show, etc. So Lydia and Sarah propose that the ACAC table be at the entrance to the Gardens. Ali Carter would be the liaison for all Town Related needs.
- Ali is checking with Patsy Kraemer on the materials and any other concerns she may have, but the Town Day committee is generally supportive of the event and the location.
- All favored moving forward with the Plein Air painting in this setting.

9) NEW BUSINESS

- In the Centers Merchant meeting, there is an effort to collaborate on a First Lights' event for this year. We should be part of it.

Meeting adjourned 8:30pm

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Marlin-Curiel

Next meeting: July 7, 7pm